

Divorce Scenario's

Possible Scenarios Involving Divorce and Remarriage

Scenarios	Bill of Divorcement ¹ Given?	Divorce Description	Remarriage Description (What if there is remarriage?)
Innocent ² person divorces their guilty spouse because of immorality (Mt.5:32; 19:9)	Yes	The Bill of Divorcement is given to protect the innocent-divorced from society's ⁵ stigma of adultery. This releases the innocent divorced from the marriage obligation.	<p>If the guilty re-marries society and God says he and the new spouse is guilty of adultery.</p> <p>If the innocent-divorced wants to re-marry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Society says the innocent person is free to re-marry.
	No	Since no Bill of Divorcement is given, even the innocent-divorced person bears society's stigma of adultery. Because of this, the innocent divorced is most likely to give the Bill of Divorcement.	
Guilty ³ person (adulterer) divorces their innocent spouse for another partner (De.24:1-4)	Yes	By giving this Bill of Divorcement to the innocent-divorced the guilty is taking the guilt of the divorcement upon him. The innocent divorced does not bear society's stigma of adultery.	<p>If the guilty remarries, the guilty and the new spouse are guilty of adultery before God (Mk.10:11-12).</p> <p>If the innocent-divorced person wants to re-marry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With a Bill of Divorcement society says the innocent divorced is free to re-marry. Without a Bill of Divorcement society assumes the innocent divorced is guilty of adultery.
	No	By not receiving the Bill of Divorcement the innocent-divorced bears society's stigma of adultery, but not before God.	
Guilty-unjustified ⁷ person divorces their innocent partner for an unjustifiable ⁴ cause (De.24:1-4)	Yes	By giving the Bill of Divorcement the guilty is taking the blame for the dismissal.	<p>An innocent-person⁶ who marries an innocent-divorced person:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With a Bill of Divorcement society says the innocent-divorced is free to re-marry, and does not commit adultery by doing so. Without a Bill of Divorcement society assumes the innocent-divorced is guilty of adultery. An innocent person who marries the innocent divorced person shares the stigma of adultery.
	No	By not receiving the Bill of Divorcement the innocent-person may bear society's stigma of adultery upon her.	

NOTES

¹ By commanding to give a **Bill of Divorcement** (De.24:1-4; Mt.5:31), God is protecting the innocent from the guilty. This is why Christ commanded to give a bill of divorcement (Mt.5:31).

² The **innocent-divorced** is not guilty of a sexually immoral act. This person has not been unfaithful to his spouse.

³ The **guilty** has had an adulterous relationship with a person other than his spouse.

⁴ An **unjustified cause** is anything NOT related to sexual immorality (adultery). Christ said that "immorality" (πορνεία, Mt.5:32; 19:9) is the only exception for divorce.

⁵ **Society** as used on this table applies primarily to Israel in both the Old and New Testament periods. The same *may* apply to our society today.

⁶ The **innocent-person** is one who has not been married before.

⁷ The **guilty-unjustified** person divorces his spouse for an unjustified reason. Christ said that "immorality" (πορνεία, Mt.5:32; 19:9) is the only exception for divorce.